Proclamations
1655/6 23 January

By the Mayor.

WHereas by neglect of executing the good Lawes and Statutes againſt Rogues, Vagabonds, and Sturdy beggers That vermine of this Common wealth doth now ſwarme in and about this City and Liberties, diſturbing and annoying the inhabitants and Paſſengers, by hanging upon Coaches, and clamarous begging at the doores of Churches and private Houſes and in the Streets and common Wayes; beguiling the modeſt, laborious and honeſt poore, (the proper obiects of Charity) of much releife and Almes which otherwiſe might bee diſpoſed to them by bountifull and well minded people: And by this meanes and their corrupt and prophane communication, doe bring diſhonor to God, ſcandall to Religion, and ſhame to the Government of this City: And for as much as it is intended and reſolved that for Reformation of this living Nuſance, the ſaid Lawes and Statutes ſhall bee hence forth duely and ſtrictly executed within this City and Liberties thereof, and the penaltyes and puniſhments thereby appointed, impoſed and inflicted upon all Perſons offending againſt the ſame: I doe therefore give notice thereof, And in the name of his Highnes the Lord Protector, doe hereby require and Command all Conſtables and other Officers and Perſons whatſoever within this City and Liberties, to bee diligent and watchfull about their duties herein: For better information whereof and that none may excuſe himſelfe by pretence of ignorance, I have cauſed ſome branches of the ſaid Statutes of moſt Common concernment to bee added hereunto, expecting that accordingly every Conſtable doe preſently apprehend (and ſo continue to doe during his ſaid Office) all ſuch Rogues, Vagabonds and Sturdy beggers as ſhall bee found in his pariſh or precinct, or ſhall bee brought or ſent to him by any of his Neighbors, and to ſend to Bridewell (the place of Correction) ſuch of them as live within this City and Liberties, who are there to bee received and dealt withall according to Law: and ſuch as live not within the Liberties aforeſaid, to whipp and paſſe away to the place of their dwelling or laſt abood. And that all other Perſons doe apprehend or cauſe to bee apprehended all ſuch as they ſhall ſee or know to reſort to their houſes to receive or begg any Almes, and carry or cauſe them to bee carried to the next Conſtable, And that in all other things they give that furtherance to this worke as by the Law is required. And further I doe hereby require all and every the ſaid Conſtables, to the end their dwellings may bee the better known and more readily found, that they have their ſtaves ſet or fixed at their ſtreete doores, plainly to bee ſeene by all Paſſengers. And moreover, that on the firſt Wedneſday in every moneth at foure of the Clocke in the afternoone, they deliver in to the Corporation for the poore at Weavers Hall, a liſt of the names and ſirnames of all ſuch Rogues and Beggers as ſhall by them reſpectively bee apprehended, whipped and paſſed away, with the time when, and the place to which they are ſent. As they will anſwere the contrary at their perills. Dated the Twenty third day of January 1655.

Sadler.

To all and every the Conſtables within the City of *London* and Liberties thereof.

39 *Eliz. cap.*4. EVery Rogue, Vagabond, or Sturdy Begger that ſhall bee taken begging, vagrant, wandering, or miſordering themſelves, ſhall bee apprehended by any Conſtable of the Pariſh where ſuch Perſon ſhall bee taken, and bee ſtripped naked from the middle upwards and bee openly whipped, till his or her body bee bloody and ſhall bee forthwith ſent from Pariſh to Pariſh by the ſaid Officer, the next ſtreight way to the Pariſh where hee was borne, if the ſame may bee known by the parties confeſſion or otherwiſe, And if the ſame bee not known, then to the Pariſh where hee or ſhee laſt dwelt, before the ſame puniſhment, by the ſpace of one whole yeare, or if it bee not known where hee or ſhee was borne, or laſt dwelt, then to the Pariſh to which hee or ſhee laſt paſſed without puniſhment &c.

39 *Eliz. cap.*4. If any Conſtable bee negligent and doe not his and their beſt endeavours for the apprehenſion of ſuch Vagabond, Rogue, or Sturdy begger, and to cauſe every of them to bee puniſhed and Convayed as aforeſaid, then the Conſtable in whom ſuch default ſhall bee, ſhall looſe and forfeit for every ſuch default Tenne ſhillings.

39 *Eliz. cap.*4. Alſo if any Perſon doe diſturbe or let the execution of this Law, or make reſcuſſe againſt any Officer or Perſon authoriſed for the due execution of the premiſſes, ſuch Perſon offending ſhall forfeite for every ſuch offence five pounds, and bee bound to the good behaviour.

1 *Iac. cap.*7. Every Perſon or Perſons ſhall apprehend or cauſe to bee apprehended, ſuch Rogues, Vagabonds and Sturdy beggers as hee or they ſhall ſee or know to reſort to their houſes to begg, gather, or receive any Almes, and him or them ſhall carry or cauſe to bee carried to the next Conſtable, upon paine to forfeit for every default Tenne ſhillings.

1 *Iac. cap.*7. And if ſuch Conſtable doe not cauſe the ſaid Rogues, Vagabonds and Sturdy beggers to bee puniſhed and Convayed as aforeſaid, ſuch Conſtable ſhall forfeit and looſe the ſumme of Twenty ſhillings for every default.

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